

October 19, 2007 as of 11:00am

**Situation Report #1
Severe Weather Events of October 18-19, 2007**

Overview

A line of severe thunderstorms, including various reported tornado sightings, passed through the Lower Peninsula during the evening of Thursday, October 18, 2007 and overnight into the morning of Friday, October 19.

Detail by County

ALCONA

Some trees were down, along with a couple of power lines.

ALPENA

Media reports of a possible tornado in the area were being investigated.

CHEBOYGAN

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INGHAM

Trees and power lines were down in the northeastern part of the county (the City of Williamston and the Townships of Locke, Wheatfield, Williamston). Wind gusts of 55 to 71 miles per hour were reported in the area, along with likely tornado activity (three tornado warnings had been issued in the Lansing area, with reported sightings southwest of Mason around 8:45pm and near Eaton Rapids around 10pm but no known serious damage).

The City of Williamston declared a local state of emergency and suffered numerous damages. A request is being made for a governor's declaration for the city and nearby townships, to authorize assistance from the Michigan Department of Transportation. Widespread trees were down, hampering access to various areas. Road access into the city has been limited, with roads closed at the intersections of Grand River and Dietz, Grand River at Zimmer, and Linn Road and I-96. The mayor of Williamston reported that power was out across the city, and arranged a press conference at 8:30am this morning. Detroit Edison reported 1600 without power and estimated that it would be restored later today. (Consumers Energy and the Lansing Board of Water and Light each reported fewer than 100 without service, in scattered locations around the area.)

Williamston schools are closed today, and much of the area's damage was observed around its high school. A garage and camper were reported as destroyed on Vanneter Road. Meadowdale Drive and its vicinity had homes with walls missing, backyards with debris, phone lines down. The Williamston High School is being used as an emergency shelter, with assistance being provided by the American Red Cross. The facility had been opened at about 11:30pm on October 19. Stands at the soccer fields nearby were reportedly destroyed.

One injury was reported, involving the driver of a semi-trailer that had overturned on I-96 near exit 117. A destroyed home caused a search to begin for its owners, and a trapped person was reported in a home near a ruptured gas line. Several damaged homes were reported in the Plymouth Landing subdivision, southeast of Williamston. Two homes were damaged along the Shiawassee County Line, along Lovejoy Road. Houses were also damaged near the Haslett and Pringle intersection. The possibility of a tornado was being investigated, with area officials and responders surveying the area to assess damages. The Ingham County Emergency Operations Center had started activating around midnight, and an incident command center was established in Williamston.

KALKASKA

A person was reported as dead after a suspected tornado had destroyed his house.

KENT

A large tree had fallen on a home on Red Pine Drive just north of 17 Mile Road.

MIDLAND

One-inch diameter hail was reported.

OSCODA

Possible tornado reports at Mio were being investigated. One house, a shed, two RV, and a barn were destroyed; 7 houses had major damage, 4 houses and one RV had minor damage. Tens of thousands of trees were destroyed, with power lines also down in the area. Oscoda will be opening their Emergency Operations Center soon.

SAGINAW

Reports of wind damage were being investigated.

SHIAWASSEE

A tornado was observed at 10:52pm on October 18 and involved damage to 7 homes around Perry.

ST. CLAIR

Three homes were reported as damaged, and much debris had collected on area roads.

TUSCOLA

Two or three houses were reported as destroyed near Millington. Millington schools are closed, along with Independence Center-Caro schools. A minor injury was reported, involving an infant at a destroyed house. A barn was also destroyed in the area.

Near Deford, a house was destroyed, along with a damaged car and RV.